

HE "SHOOED" THE BEARS.

A Fence Rail Mr. Halliday's Only Weapon of Defense.

Mr. and Mrs. Hobson Halliday and their daughter, Miss Edith, and Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Fink, also of New York, had an exciting moonlight encounter with a full-grown bear and two cubs at Beach's Corners, town of Jewett, on the mountain top, says a Catskill, N. Y., dispatch. The party had been making a carriage drive through the mountains for a week or more. On the way to Hunter, they stopped at a farmhouse at Beach's Corners because of a breakdown.

Starting for a moonlight stroll after supper, they soon found themselves a mile from the farmhouse, when Mrs. Fink, who was slightly in advance, nearly stepped on a bear and two cubs lying in the middle of the road. Paralyzed by fear, she was unable to utter a sound. Just as the mother bear arose and gazed about, the rest of the party appeared around a bend in the road.

Mr. Halliday seized a fence rail and sought to "shoo" the bear and cubs into the thicket. Instead, however, the mother bear advanced toward Mrs. Fink. She sprang back and climbed a fence. At this stage some coon hunters came along and the bears retreated into a thicket.

Thimble Puzzle.

Here is a new thimble puzzle, and very different it is from the one which has proved such an attractive feature at country fairs for the past century or more.

As the accompanying picture shows, its principal part is a box, on the bottom of which is the representation of a human hand. Bosses or knobs, which look like ordinary finger tips,



are fixed on this hand, and in the box are several thimbles, the diameters of which correspond with those of the bosses. The thimbles are not attached to anything, and the trick consists in moving them so that they will take their proper places on the finger tips. It looks easy, yet it is quite difficult, for the thimbles somehow seem to have an aversion for the tips, and it takes an expert to place them quickly in their proper positions.—New York Herald.

Strange Motive for Travel.

Surely no stranger motive for travel was ever known than that which urges Count Rocca Dianovitch to make the circle of the globe. For nearly forty years this nobleman has wandered up and down the earth on foot. His object is said to be a desire to enter himself on the prison records of the world, and in order to speak from practical experience he insists from time to time upon being locked up like any vulgar malefactor. In carrying out this plan he has already, it is reported, made the acquaintance of the prisons of Spain and Italy, of England and America, and experienced the hospitality of the penal settlement of Guyane.

Canary That Talks.

A Blackburn man has a remarkable canary which never sings, but can "talk" as fluently and distinctly as any parrot. It reels off quite articulately sentence after sentence, such as "Pretty Polly dressed in green, coming home to see the queen," "Polly's sick; run for the doctor, quick," "What do you want here?" These are only a few samples of the linguistic attainments of this wonderful little bird, which is certainly the feathered marvel of the age, and is believed to be the only authentic instance of a talking canary known.

At School in Egypt.



The schoolmaster and his pupils squat on the ground outdoors.

Philanthropy Indeed.

"Well," said the dripping fellow citizen to the other dripping fellow citizen on the twenty-ninth day of the rain, "there's one thing about this weather. It's good for the crops." And then there the other dripping fellow citizen did raise and otherwise elevate his umbrella, and did with the said umbrella slay, murder, kill, destroy and otherwise eradicate the first dripping fellow citizen, and it was a blamed good thing.

A BARTERED LIFE.

BY MARION HARLAND.

INTERNATIONAL PRESS ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER VII.



UPON as smooth a current were Constance Withers' conscience and prudence rocked to sleep during the early months of that winter. Winter! Never had summer been so replete with light and warmth. There is a divine delight in the slow sweep of the outer circles of the maelstrom; the half consciousness of the awakening heart, like that of the babe who, aroused from slumber by his mother's voice, smiles recognition of the dear music before his eyes are unsealed by her kisses, or his head is nestled upon her bosom.

That to every human heart such awakening comes, sooner or later, I hold and believe for certain. Deserts of salt and bitterness there are in the spiritual as well as in the material world; but there was a time when the Creator, whose name is Love, pronounced them "very good," when as yet the flood, and the rain of fire and brimstone had not made havoc of all their pleasant things, nor the soft soil been hardened into flint and gravel by dearth and heat. And, to that garden of the Lord's planting there came a day—when or of what duration He knows, and perchance He alone—when the south wind blew softly, and all the spices thereof flowed out—spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense, myrrh and aloes. It may have been but for one glad hour—one moment of bewildering bliss, that the heart thus visited was transformed into a fountain of gardens, a well of living waters and streams from Lebanon. The next may have witnessed the rush of the deluge or the bursting of the pitchy cloud; and behold! in place of Eden, a lair of wild beasts, a house full of doleful creatures, meet for the dwelling of owls and the dance of satyrs.

Other visions than these images of woe and terror abode with Constance; formless fancies, fair as vague; specious reveries in which she lived through coming years as she was doing now, surrounded by the same outward comforts; her steps guarded by the same friend, whose mere presence meant contentment; with whom the interchange of thought and feeling left nothing to be desired from human sympathy. It was a severe shock that showed her the precipice upon the flowery verge of which she lay dreaming.

The brothers were, one morning, discussing at breakfast the merits of a pair of horses that had been offered for sale to the elder. For a wonder Edward displayed more caution in accepting the jockey's declaration of their fitness for family use than did his staid relatives. Mr. Withers was very obstinate in his adherence to what ever principle or prejudice he believed that he had seen cause to adopt, and his eye had been captivated by the showy team; his credulous hearing gained by the adroit tongue of the dealer. All that Edward's dissuasions could effect was acquiescence in his proposal that they should try the horses before the sleigh that afternoon, before deciding upon the purchase.

Harriet clapped her hands vivaciously. "And then you'll drive by and give us a turn behind the beauties. I am sure they must be heavenly from what Cousin Elnathan says. I am wild to see them!"

"There is a look in the eye of one of that bespeaks the spirit of another region," said Edward, apart to Constance.

"Don't ride after them!" she entreated, quickly. "Your brother will yield if you tell him plainly how unsafe you consider them."

"Not unsafe for him and myself, perhaps; but hardly the creatures to be entrusted with your life and limb," he rejoined. "Rest assured that I shall make a thorough test of them before consenting to the venture. I shall drive them myself, and speak out frankly the result of the trial. In whatever else we may differ, Elnathan and I are a unit in our care for your welfare. So, if we show ourselves and the heavenly span of quadrupeds at the door today, you need not fear to accept our invitation."

The gentle and affectionate reassurance contrasted pleasantly with Mr. Withers' authoritative mandate. "Constance! you will hold yourself in readiness to drive out with us this afternoon. We shall call for you at three o'clock. I wish you and Harriet to be entirely prepared for the ride when we come. Young horses do not like to stand in the cold."

An impulse she did not stay to define drew Constance to the window as the two gentlemen descended the front steps side by side. Mr. Withers was a trifle the taller of the two, but his figure was angular and unbending;

Edward's supple and elegant, while scarcely a trace of family likeness existed between the swarthy visage of the elder, with its deep-set eyes, long upper lip, and high, narrow forehead, and the lively glance, clear complexion, and spirited mouth that made Edward's physiognomy a goodly sight to moxie eyes than those that met the parting smile he cast up at the parlor window when he gained the pavement, whereas Mr. Withers stalked solemnly on, apparently forgetful already that he had a home and wife, now that his face was set office-ward.

"Shadow and sunshine!" reflected the gazer. "And they are not more unlike in countenance than in dispositions, aims and conduct—as dissimilar as two upright men can be."

Harriet's shallow treble sounded at her elbow like a repetition of the last thought. "No one would ever take them to be relatives," she said. "Yet each is excellent in his way. Don't you think so?"

"Yes," answered Constance, musing away.

"Only their ways are so different!" persisted the cousin. "I like Elnathan best, of course, but Edward is the more popular man of the two, I believe—isn't he?"

"I really do not know!" Constance left the room uttering the falsehood.

Harriet had a trick of making her intensely uncomfortable whenever the talk between them turned upon the brothers.

"I hate comparisons!" she said to herself, when she reached her room. "And it is forward and indelicate in her to institute them in my hearing."

Convinced that the sudden heat warming her heart and cheeks was excited by Harriet's impertinence, she made it her business to stop thinking of the conversation and its origin so soon as she could dismiss it and turn her attention to pleasanter things. It was more innocent and agreeable work; for instance, to write out Edward's part of a new duet upon a fair sheet of paper which he could hold in his hand as he stood by her at the piano, the printed copy being so blurred as to try his eyes. He was very slightly near-sighted, although a casual acquaintance would not have suspected it. She copied music legibly and rapidly, and lately had hit upon this happy device of making him some poor return for the manifold services he had rendered her. "All that I can do leaves me desolately in his debt," she reasoned. "I never knew what was the felicity and disinterestedness of a brother's love until I met him. But all brothers are not so considerate or devoted as he is. I should understand that."

TO BE CONTINUED.

Of Course Not.

Watts—"That is a pretty good story you tell, but it won't work." Weary Watkins—"Course it won't. D'you s'pose I'd be travelin' around with it if it did?"—Indianapolis Journal.

Difference of Opinion.

Ted—"What's the name of that suburb Tom moved to?" Ned—"The people who live there say it is Paradise Park, while everybody else calls it the jumping-off place."

The large insurance companies now insist that individuals are much more dangerous risks in the matter of tuberculosis if they are twenty pounds under the normal weight than if they are descendants of families with tuberculosis heredity on both sides of the house, when not intimately associated with those who are actually suffering from tuberculosis.

Wonderful Baby Giant.

The Berlin newspapers tell of a wonderful baby giant which was recently brought by his parents before the medical faculty of that city for examination. He is the son of a baker at Drievera, and, although only 18 months old, stands three and a half feet high. He measures thirty-six inches around the chest.

Hard Cider.

Cider is the only alcoholic beverage that is not taxed. When sold fermented, in bottles, it contains ordinarily 4 or 5 per cent of alcohol, but this amount may be increased largely by adding sugar—sufficiently, indeed, to render the beverage quite intoxicating. This makes it popular in prohibition communities.

Habits of Birds.

It is commonly assumed by ornithologists that every species of migratory bird breeds in the most northern portion of its range. It has been found, however, that the Australian sand coterel goes south to breed, traveling to the South of New Zealand, or as far toward Antarctica as it can now get.

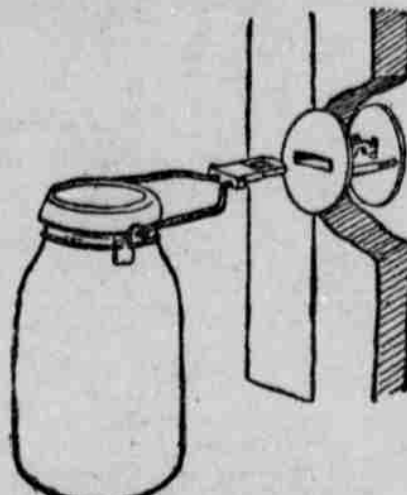
Universal Typewriters.

Typewriters with Arabic letters are now being used in Egypt.

SCIENTIFIC

Lock for the Milk Jar.

Who could blame a hungry man for removing a bottle of milk and a loaf of bread from a front doorstep early in the morning to satisfy his wants, especially when the food and drink were so temptingly placed in his way? In the judgment of many, the householder is equally to blame with the man who purloined the goods for allowing them to stand within his reach. If the purchaser of the milk



Means for Preventing Theft.

does not feel disposed to give it away, then the better plan would be to place it under lock and key until such a time as the first one up in the house could take it in from the doorstep. This is just what is intended shall be done, with the aid of the locking device we have here presented, the inventor's idea being that the bottle shall be securely attached to the door, in such a manner that it can be easily removed by the person inside the house, but cannot be taken by a passerby. The lock consists of two slotted plates for opposite faces of the door, with a spring hook between the plates. When the loop formed at the end of the bale on the bottle is inserted in the outer plate the hook rises and then falls into the opening, where it remains, securely locking the bottle until the householder lifts the hook from the inside, removes the bale from the slotted plate and carries the bottle of milk into the house.

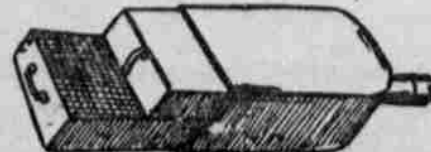
The inventor is John C. Betts, of this city.

Frenchman Discovers New Metal.

German papers report the discovery by Edward Mollard, a Frenchman, of a new metal, called "selum." It is stated that the discoverer claims that selum costs about one-twelfth as much as aluminum, and is lighter and stronger. It does not rust, and is, therefore, suitable for use in shipbuilding, for the manufacture of pipes and for railroad construction. On account of its cheapness—and as it is capable of a fine polish, resembling nickel—it would be desirable for the manufacture of cooking utensils. Its hardness is said to be almost equal to that of iron, while its power of resistance is greater than iron, but less than that of steel. The melting point is 1600 degrees Centigrade, and while it contracts somewhat in the molten state, it is not impossible to use this wonderful metal in molding. Our consul general at Frankfurt, Germany, says in a report on the subject that it will be well to await more definite information concerning its properties.

Shovel and Ash Sifter.

Probably never before in the history of this country was so much coal saved by sifting the ashes taken from cook stoves and furnaces as last winter, during the great anthracite coal strike, when it was not always possible to obtain fuel even if provided with plenty of money to pay the high prices asked for what little of the coal was to be had. The coal sieve never before was in such enormous demand, and many families invested a dollar or more in this article to save several times that amount in coal to be re-



burned. If the lesson in household economy thus brought home should continue to be taken advantage of during the coming winter season there should be a good field for the combination sifter and shovel here illustrated, which it would be possible to use in cleaning out the open grate in the library without raising any perceptible dust, returning the good coal to the fire and disposing of the sifted ashes in a receptacle to be carried out later. This shovel has a sifting grate, dividing it into two compartments, with an ash drawer forming one compartment and the grate drawer another compartment, neither of the

drawers having rear end pieces. The ashes are taken up with the empty shovel, and the grate and ash compartment are then inserted, with the ash drawer uppermost. Upon reversing the shovel the ashes are dropped on the grate, and as the front is entirely closed the shaking necessary to separate the ashes from the coal cannot fill the room with dust. Upon withdrawing the two drawers the ashes can be retained in the lower one, if desired, and the good coal thrown back into the grate.

The inventor is C. F. Belknap, of Philadelphia, Pa.

Revolving Plant Cultivator.

Were the question put to the farmer as to which portion of his work he had the greatest aversion for, the reply would probably be, "Keeping young vegetable growths free from weeds." When the plants have attained a larger size they can be neglected somewhat, and there is little danger of the weeds choking them, but early in the season each plant must be carefully weeded several times or a good crop of weeds and a poor crop of vegetables will be the result. What backaching work this is can well be imagined, provided it is done by hand, but if the implement shown in the picture should be used for this purpose it seems as though it would be relieved of the greater portion of its tedium. It enables a man to maintain an upright position while at labor, instead of stooping over each plant, and should certainly do the work much better and with greater speed than would be possible with the hoe. The implement consists of a central shaft, ending in a rotary weeding rake at the lower end, and geared to the crank shaft at the top. This shaft is mounted in a frame, arranged to support the rake at just the proper height to enter the earth, stirring it up and removing the weeds all around



An Improvement Over the Hoe.

the growing plant. The implement is light enough to be easily carried by the farmer, and one or two turns with the crank after the supporting legs have been disposed on opposite sides of the shrub will do the work.

Seth I. Titus, of Villardale, Ill., is the inventor.

Artificial Gutta Percha.

A well-known European expert is quoted as saying that he has examined some of the results obtained by the German postoffice with submarine and land cables insulated with the new gutta percha substitute, manufactured under the "Gentzsch" patents, and these results are stated to fully bear out the claims of the inventor. It is worth noting that this official report confirms the favorable properties of the new gutta percha as regards its high insulation resistance and its low inductive capacity. The latter is considerably lower than that of the natural product. The importance of this fact will be better understood when it is remembered that the speed of submarine telegraphic transmission varies about inversely to the capacity of the cable. The ever increasing demand and shrinking supply of the natural product make the substitute well worth considering, aside from the question of better results.

Artificial Birds.

Birds are to be worn more than ever in millinery, but the bird lovers need not despair, for these trimming birds are made in Paris and never sang a song. The stuffed birds, in fact, are being eliminated from millinery for what might be termed natural causes. They have come to be regarded as tasteless by French milliners, as they cannot be handled with at all the same ease and effect as the made bird can. The wings of the stuffed bird are stiff, those of the made bird are pliable and easily bent to follow a crown or bend around a hat rim. The feathers of common birds killed for food or because they are nuisances are used to make these birds.